

1901 And All That

(One simply has to feel a certain amount of sympathy for all those poor unfortunate colour-blind readers who can't appreciate the beautiful pastel shade of this new green paper.)

A Diplomacy magazine brought out with monotonous irregularity by Mick Bullock of 14 Nursery Avenue, Halifax, Yorkshire. EX3 5SZ Tel. 61624. Formerly the newsletter of the Mensa Diplomacy Club but as from now carrying games for all and Tuesday. Any similarity to any other magazines living or dead is completely intentional. Subscription is 2p per issue plus postage, Regular game fee 50p, Variants probably similar.

Wednesday 21st. March 1973(Deadline wasn't really till Friday, but what the hell)

I think we'll start off this week with an attempt at humour, no harm in trying.

'Did you hear about the Irishman who, making an appearance on The Generation Game, reached the final but only came away with a pair of swing doors and a length of conveyor belt.'

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Game Report. IDC 1 (1972 EX)

1903 Builds

| | |
|-------------------|------------------------|
| ENGLAND (Blevitt) | Builds F(Bdi) |
| FRANCE (Roth) | No change |
| GERMANY (Perry) | No change |
| ITALY (Yare) | No change |
| RUSSIA (Huttall) | A(StP) RETREATS TO Mos |
| TURKEY (Minors) | Builds A(Con) A(Smy) |

From our War Correspondent

AUSTRIA:

Rumours - There are an increasing number of rumours that the Austrian Emperor has fled to Zurich.((Who the hell's that in England then -- see below))

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DEADLINE. Spring 1904 Orders -- Saturday 7th April 1973.

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I was a little torn(7 stitches needed but mending nicely thankyou) as to what designation to assign future games. I could have used IDC 2 etc. changing the meaning from Mensa Diplomacy Club to Mick's Diplomacy Club without much effort. This didn't seem a very satisfactory solution. Nor did I like the idea of calling the games A, B, C, etc. as several 'zines do, or 73/1, 73/2 etc. another popular method. Finally I came up with what can only be described as a ~~stupid idea~~ brainwave, to give each game not a number, not a letter but a name. And what could be more gloriously inappropriate than to use the list of International Analogues(?). So the first open game will be known as --- "1901 ALPHA" and the waiting list for BRAVO is already 6 strong.

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NEW GAME STARTS

"1901 ALPHA"

The players for this game have been notified by separate post and the DEADLINE for Spring 1901 Orders is APRIL 7th.

| <u>Country</u> | <u>Player</u> | <u>Address</u> |
|----------------|----------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------|
| AUSTRIA | Steve Doubleday | 3 Campbell Road, Walthamstow, LONDON E17 |
| ENGLAND | Michael Hardwick | Keogh Hall, Imperial College, Princes Gdns., LONDON SW7 |
| FRANCE | Glen Cheney | 39 Lane Head Road, Shepley, HUDDERSFIELD HD8 8AD |
| GERMANY | Andy Davidson(surprise,surprise) | Flat D5 Harewood Court, Marsland Rd. SALE, Cheshire |
| ITALY | Michael Sherrad | 227 Rosliston Road, BURTON ON TRENT, Staffs. |
| RUSSIA | Neil Stevens | 4 Laycock St., LONDON N1 1SA |
| TURKEY | Roger Carroll | 58 Chestnut Grove, NEW MALDEN, Surrey |

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Did you hear about the tragedy aboard the USS Enterprise. Captain Kirk's log has contracted Dutch Elm disease. OK, so what if I do listen to Noel Edmonds.

And even worse -- Yecch of the week, once again, must go to Tony Blackburn, quote: " I was in one of those new open-air restaurants in Torquay the other week and after about 5 minutes it started to rain. It took me an hour and a half just to finish my soup!"

That, I promise, is positively the last Tony Blackburn^{joke} ever to appear in these pages, honest, hey, come back, it's true, I swear it, please,.....

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WAITING LIST

This should really have followed straight on from news of the new game, but what the hell(again), all work and no play(Have you noticed how many sentences so far this issue have ended with a?) ((Correct answer- 'row of dots'. Runners-up prizes to 'line of dots', 'lot of dots', 'load of dots', ~~lots of dots~~))

Enough of this fooling about, back to the waiting list.

Regular Diplomacy

Bob Wheeler, Roger Ellis, Pete Cousins, Colin Walsh, Peter Swanson, Allan Doodes. 1 needed. Then 7 more.

Variants

I know it goes against Brian Yare's plea for GL's to pool variantees but I have that maniacal desire that seizes all GL's early in their careers to occupy every last waking minute of their time with GM'ing. So, at this stage, I am prepared to compromise by offering a limited variety of variant games.

'Abstraction'in particular appeals to me, so the waiting list for that is now officially open. Game fee only 50p because I like it, even though it does mean constructing another of my super duper, full coloured, full size boards. Another variant that I think I'm going to like, when I've seen the map and rules, is 'Youngstown', more about that next issue. I've had one request for 'Jihad' about which I know ~~very little except that it's big!~~ I believe DEE KRIEG has a game in progress, so more about that also next issue, when I've read up on it. One other variant which appealed to me when I first saw the layout was 'Atlantica' but it would appear that some GLs are not having too much success in filling waiting lists for this game. I also understand that one or two alterations are likely to be made to the rules in the near future so this one is held in abeyance.

And now, in response to many requests for me to expound on some of these variants, to share the benefits of my worldly knowledge and generally make an ass of myself, here for starters is a brief summary of the more significant changes made to the normal game of Diplomacy that go to make up the game of..

ABSTRACTION

The action takes place from 1914, moves being made in 2 consecutive months, builds following in September, December, March and June. The game automatically ends in December 1918 if it hasn't done already.

There are 48 supply centres as opposed to 34, each player starting off with one more unit than in the regular game. There are, therefore, 5 more neutral sc's. There are 65 land provinces as opposed to 56 and 32 sea spaces as opposed to 19. The only major extension to the board takes into account the full southern Mediterranean coast covering Morocco, Algeria, Tunis, Libya, Egypt, Palestine and Arabia and including several more sea spaces Malta Sea, Cypriote Sea etc. Most countries have been broken down into slightly finer detail i.e. usually 8 provinces as opposed to about 6.e.g. England gains Plymouth and Ireland, Italy gains Sardinia and Sicily, Spain becomes 4 provinces instead of 1, the Black Sea(country?) becomes 2 spaces etc.etc. Some provinces change their name and size completely e.g. Sevastopol makes way for Odessa and Caucasus, Trieste becomes Croatia and Sara, and so on.

One particularly novel feature is the limitation of fleet movement in the Arctic Circle, during the winter months, the Arctic Ocean, Barents Sea, Lapland, Archangel and Iceland being the main sufferers.

Fleets become much more versatile when transporting armies, for example, an army in London can board a fleet in the English Channel, sail with the fleet into the Mid Atlantic Ocean and disembark in Portugal, ALL during one turn. Again, A(Mar) boards F(GoL) sails to TMS and disembarks in Tunis. Armies are allowed to sail about aboard a fleet without the need for disembarking for up to 3 consecutive moves. This unit becomes known as A/F.

Let's not forget either to mention the Bay of Biscay, the Anglian Sea and the exotically named Deep Blue Sea.

One goody I've saved till last is the ending of Swiss neutrality; Switzerland becomes Oberland and Zurich, the latter being a supply centre for me, as Italy, to build in Grafeti 78/IV (Sorry, got carried away(mutter, mutter, yes, you ought to be, mutter, mutter))

Oh, nearly forgot, there is an optional rule which affords players virtually a free choice in their initial placement of pieces and in selection of the number of each type of piece.

All in all, an excellent variant; one hesitates to say better than regular Diplomacy just as one would hesitate to say that Ethil the Frog is the best Dippy magazine on the market! Please sign up for a game(maybe John Figgott will now), I'm sure you'll enjoy it.

Copies of the map and rules are, I think, available from Brian Yare, 19 Doocot Road, St. Andrews, Fife price 5p.

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Just to fill a bit of room, a couple of oldies from an old rag mag. 'The understanding employer was only too pleased to give his clerk the day off after the young man explained that his wife was going to have a baby. When the clerk came to work the following morning the boss called him into his office to offer his congratulations and enquired, "Was it a boy or a girl?"

"Oh it's much too soon to tell yet," replied the clerk, "We have to wait 9 months to find out."

And, overheard in a bar:

"First I'm going to buy you a few drinks and get you a little tight." said the man.

"Oh no you're not," said the girl.

"Then I'm going to take you to dinner and ply you with a few more drinks."

"Oh no you're not."

"Then I'll take you to my flat and keep serving you drinks."

"Oh no you're not."

"Then I'm going to make violent passionate love to you."

"Oh no you're not."

"And I'm not going to take any precautions either," said the man.

"Oh yes you are," said the girl.

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Your CREDIT stands, albeit on its last legs, at . If this figure is <5p then you're in dead shtuck.(Anybody care to improve on that spelling) This issue was free to all and wednesry but the next and the next after that and the next after that will cost 2p plus postage.

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Apart from the fact that I've run out of things to write, ' I'm hopeful that tomorrows post will complete the waiting list before I commence dupli- cating. If it doesn't then this sentence will be followed by a big blank space.

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You're in luck. At the last minute the waiting list for "1901...BRAVO" was filled and so this game can go right ahead. Thankyou all for having already sent in your game fees, the extra interest thereby accumulated will help to buy me a new typewriter ribbon.(no prizes for spotting this weeks deliberate mistake there - if anyone can't and is frightened to ask, for fear of having their name printed, I promise not to

| <u>Country</u> | <u>Player</u> | <u>Address</u> |
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| GERMANY | Michael Brunt | 3 Kenchester Close, Matchborough NE, REDDITCH, Worcs. B93 0B2 |
| ITALY | Colin Walsh | 'Woodland', Meadow Close, WILMSLOW, Cheshire |
| RUSSIA | Rod Wheeler | 102A Ashley Gdns., LONDON SW1 |
| TURKEY | Peter Swanson | 6 Welford Place, Wimbledon, LONDON SW19 5AJ |

Same DEADLINE, April 7th, if it's a little too short, please send your complaints in with your orders. And still they roll in, waiting list for "1901....CHARLIE" 1 strong already(Les Pinley) Sorry Les, Michael's letter arrived first post and yours second. Best of luck, everybody.

